

To John Bruce

2 Oct 41

My dear Sir

Do you see any harm in adding the following to the Prospectus of the new Shakespeare, which you were good enough to read? I wish to insert it, because the bookellers are ^{very} anxious to connect ^{in some way} the Shakesp. Society with the publication:-

"In conclusion I may perhaps be permitted to state, that it was the intention of some members of the Council of the Shakespeare Society to recommend that an edition of the Works of our great Dramatist should be issued under the sanction of that body; but as soon as they learnt that a

proposal of the kind had been made to me, they most handsomely relinquished their design. They knew ^{during} how many years I had been preparing such a work, & they were willing to believe, that to allow me to proceed with it, would accomplish in several important respects the object they had in view. They, and other literary and antiquarian friends, hence likewise promptly tendered such assistance as cannot fail to be most valuable in the completion of the undertaking.

M. Augot, whose opinion I have asked, not only sees no objection to the above, but urges me to insert it; but I would not take such a step without your approbation also, as the originator of the plan to which reference is made.

I am now in the act of printing the Prospectus, & have ordered

a quantity of flummery on the title-
page, and in an introductory para-
graph, which the publishers were
desirous of inserting.

Apologising for giving you
this trouble, I remain,

My dear Sir

Yours most sincerely

J. Payne Collier

24 Brompton Sq.

Oct. 24th 1841.

